

ALA Councilor
Report to the Board
September 15, 2010

This report is primarily about my participation in Council at the AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE— Washington, D.C. June 24 – June 29, 2010.

The attendance at this Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. reached a final tally of 26,201. The previous Annual Conference final attendance reports were 28,941 for Chicago (2009), 22,047 for Anaheim (2008), 28,499 for Washington (2007), and 16,784 New Orleans (2006). Future Mid-Winter Meetings will be held in San Diego (2011), Dallas (2012), Seattle (2013) and Philadelphia (2014). Future Annual Conferences will be held in New Orleans (2011), Anaheim (2012), Washington (2013) and Las Vegas (2014).

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION SESSION (Sunday, June 27)

James G. Neal, Chair of Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC), reported on how ALA and its divisions have sustained service and fiscal balance despite revenue shortfalls through economies (layoffs, furloughs, etc.) implemented promptly.

Endowment Trustee Chair Dan Bradbury reviewed the mixed results of the endowment fund during the past year and the gains of the year 2009. Portfolio value through the first portion of 2010 reached \$28,916,000 where the market value in 2003 was at \$18,991,000.

ALA President Camile Alire reported on her successful presidential year in developing advocacy and diversity awareness.

Incoming President Roberta Stevens announced that her presidency will emphasize the developing fund raising techniques and models for libraries as well as the development of authors as advocates for libraries.

ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels gave a brief review of his lengthy (36 page) report to Council and Executive Board. He noted favorable trends in membership holding steady and encouraging registrations for this ALA Annual Conference. Two grants have been received from IMLS (Institute for Museum and Library Services) to promote the support staff certification as well as the recruitment of new librarians from minority groups.

Members were encouraged to give to ALA funding initiatives.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/dev/alafunding.cfm>

COUNCIL I (Sunday June 27)

The Council approved the Goals and Objectives of the Strategic Plan for 2011-2015 by a near unanimous vote. <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/missionhistory/plan/index.cfm>

Keith Fiels reported that Executive Board actions included establishing standards of responsible conduct for corporate affiliates and champions of the Association.

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A “Resolution Reaffirming Equal Employment Opportunity for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Librarians and Library Workers” was passed after some discussion by a unanimous vote.

A “Resolution to Insure Equitable Access to All Forms of Electronic Content Through Libraries” was discussed at length. The opposing issues were that the resolution was too broad in its scope and that the broadness offered flexibility to address the complex array of problems Council voted to bring the resolution back to Council II.

A “Resolution on Non-Discrimination in Conference Contracts” offering restrictions on entering into contracts with organizations and legal bodies in cities, counties and states that by law discriminate against Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people was referred to BARC for assessment of fiscal implications.

ALA-APA COUNCIL (Sunday June 27)

Keith Fiels (ALA-APA Executive Director) reported on the award of an IMLS grant to assist with the APA Certification program for support staff. This \$590,000 should expand the Certification Program efforts across the nation. ALA-APA will have positive fiscal results during FY 2010 with some steps underway to repay the indebtedness of ALA-APA that had been extended to \$275,000 during the last Mid-Winter. The budgetary ceiling of \$242,878 was approved unanimously for FY 2011.

COUNCIL II (Monday, June 28)

Freedom to Read Foundation President Kenton Oliver reported victories in preservation of first amendment rights and addition of 200 additional members during the past year. He also noted the death of FTRF champion and vice-president Burton Joseph. FTRF, www.ftrf.org/joinftrf

Policy Monitoring Committee Chair Janet Swan Hill submitted to Council a number of wording changes in ALA Policy. One of these was 5.5.6 Reporting Council Votes: “Results of recorded votes of Council shall be published in a widely available official outlet of the Association. Results of roll call votes shall be published promptly and in detail.” Another action item called for the formation of a Presidential Task Force to further revise and clean up wording discrepancies and inconsistencies in the ALA Policy manual. This report concluded 23 years of service to Council by Janet Swan Hill. Council expressed appreciation for Janet’s many years of leadership.

“Resolution Concerning the Proposed Closing of the School of Library and Information Science at Louisiana State University” was passed unanimously after an introduction by Committee on Education Chair Lynn Connaway. The resolution opposes the closing of the LSU SLIS.

ALA Treasurer Rod Hersberger presented the FY 2010 and 2011 financial picture. It is evident that the ALA management and staff have done a creditable job of maintaining service during a difficult period. The Council approved the total Budgetary Ceiling of \$57,162,413 for FY 2011.

“Resolution to Ensure Equitable Access to all Formats of Electronic Content Through Libraries” was passed with the understanding that the efforts of the Task Force created will work in conjunction with OITP (Office of Information Technology Policy).

Also passed was a “Resolution on Ensuring Summer Reading Programs for all Children and

Teens.” Concilors Nick Buron, YALSA, Sylvia Norton, AASL, and Rhonda Puntney, ALSC, presented this resolution.

COUNCIL III (Tuesday, June 29)

Martin Garner, Chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee submitted an action item for approval of Council – “Prisoners’ Right to Read: An interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights” was passed unanimously.

Mario Ascencio, Chair of the Committee on Legislation, brought six action items forward from his Committee. Several were in support of School Libraries and School Librarians. All of these action items passed by unanimous or near unanimous vote.

Beverly Lynch, Chair of International Relations Committee, presented a report outlining the work done by the Committee and by ALA in the field of international cooperation. She noted that there were no action items or anti-war resolutions for the first time in many years.

Jan Sanders, Chair of the Committee on Organization, proposed the formation of a Retired Members Round Table (RMRT). Another action item sought an increase in composition to the Conference Committee to include a representative from the Accessibility Assembly, passed unanimously.

A “Resolution on Institutional Review Boards and Intellectual Freedom” was presented by outgoing Councilor Melora Ranney Norma. This was not passed, but referred to several interested committees and round tables.

The “Resolution on Non-Discrimination in Conference Contracts” submitted by Councilor (and Executive Board Member) Larry Romans, had been reviewed by BARC subsequent to its referral from Council I. This resolution was passed by a near unanimous vote.

Copies of the final wording of all resolutions and action items from Council Sessions are posted on the ALA Web Site <http://www.ala.org>.

I joined about 15 Kentuckians in the first ever national advocacy rally to be held during the American Library Association Annual Conference. About 1,600 librarians and library supporters wearing red shirts with “Vote for Libraries” on the front assembled on Capitol Hill. This rally was held in place of the 2010 Legislative Day. The 2011 Legislative Day will return and be held on May 9-10 at the Liaison Hotel.

This concludes my term as ALA Councilor. I am very appreciative to the KLA membership for electing me to this position. I was proud to represent Kentucky on the American Library Association Council for these three years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Tassie
KY Chapter ALA Councilor, 2007-2010